

Planning Your Arbor Day Celebration

A program for a basic Arbor Day Ceremony

Introduction:

- Present the flag. Good choices for presenters include scouts or representatives from veterans' groups.
- Arrange for welcoming comments by an elected official or community leader.
- Read an Arbor Day proclamation.

Main body of the program:

- Read a brief Arbor Day history stressing that planting trees and wise environmental stewardship is the purpose of the holiday.
- Invite older members of the community who participated in past Arbor Day celebrations to talk about those past celebrations and tree plantings. Take a current picture of the person with the tree that was planted years ago.
- Sing songs, read poems, or present a play about trees, tree planting, or the importance of trees.
- Recognize and thank a community good steward.
- Ask someone to make a few remarks about the importance of wise stewardship and the contributions made by trees.
- Plant a tree together. Information about the kind of tree, height at maturity, life span, and care should be given as the tree is planted. Follow correct planting procedures. Take photographs of the event and display them later in a prominent place.

Closing:

- Announce and/or recognize individual and group commitments to future stewardship projects.
- Retire the flag. Sing a closing song.
- Provide seedlings or nursery gift certificates for those who want to plant a tree in their own yard. Each seedling should have planting and care instructions attached to the tree itself.

Some other things you can do on Arbor Day

- Hold an Arbor Day birthday party and eat cake.
- Plan a craft show with crafts and items made from natural materials.
- Visit a school or library and read books about trees to a group of children.
- Hold a parade.
- Host a reception for the Tree Board members in your community and invite your community forester.
- Plant a tree at City Hall with representatives from all the city agencies and invite citizens to have coffee and cookies afterwards.
- Learn a new tree-related skill like: tree identification, how to prune correctly, grafting, or planting for wildlife.
- Organize a "Big Tree" or "Oldest Tree" search within your community and publish a booklet that lists the addresses of the winners. Label the winners that are in public places.
- Build a tree house and see the world from a bird's eye view.
- Buy and taste-test tree products.
- Take a walk in the park.
- Sit, enjoy, and appreciate the natural world around you.